

## Message Text

SECRET POSS DUPE

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51

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 IGA-02 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01

L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 OMB-01 EUR-25 H-02

NEA-10 COME-00 EB-11 TRSE-00 PRS-01 RSR-01 /140 W  
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R 101710 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8716

S E C R E T RABAT 1616

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR MO

SUBJ: INITIAL U. S. RESPONSE TO BENHIMA VISIT

REF: STATE 065170

1. SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER APPRECIATES PRELIMINARY US REACTION TO POINTS HE RAISED DURING HIS WASHINGTON VISIT BUT HOPES FOR STRENGTHENED US AID EFFORT IN MOROCCO AFTER DETAILED US STUDY HAS BEEN COMPLETED. END SUMMARY.

2. ON APRIL 9 I GAVE TO FONMIN BENHIMA, WORD FOR WORD IN FRENCH, INITIAL US RESPONSE ( REFTEL) TO POINTS HE HAD RAISED DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO US. FONMIN LISTENED ATTENTIVELY AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR US COMMENTS, WHICH HE SAID WELL REFLECTED WARM AND FREINDLY ATMOSPHERE WHICH HE HAD ENCOUNTERED IN WASHINGTON. AT HIS REQUEST I AGREED SEND HIM ENGLISH TEXT ( APPROPRIATELY EDITED).

3. AFTER FURTHER THOUGHT HE SAID HE HOPED SUBSEQUENT US RESPONSE, TO BE PROVIDED AFTER MORE DETAILED STUDY, WOULD INDICATE US READINESS TO ENGAGE IN " MORE INCLUSIVE" PROGRAMS OF ASSISTANCE TO MOROCCO. I REPLIED THAT KNOWLEDGE OF PROJECTS IN NEW FIVE - YEAR PLAN WOULD BE HELPFUL TO U. S. BENHIMA THOUGHT INITIAL US RESPONSE  
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SEEMED REVEAL INTENTION TO CONTINUE POLICY VERY SIMILAR TO PRESENT ONE IN SCOPE AND SUBSTANCE. MOREOVER, INITIAL RESPONSE EVEN INDICATED RETROGRESSION, SINCE MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR FY 1973 WAS MENTIONED AS DECLINING TO \$10 MILLION. THIS WOULD CAUSE GOM REAL PROBLEM.

4. BENHIMA SAID COST OF REHABILITATED HELICOPTERS WAS WAY BEYOND MOROCCO'S MEANS. RUSSIANS HAD OFFERED HELICOPTERS, LIGHT TANKS, AND PATROL BOATS, BUT KING, NOT WANTING BECOME DEPENDENT UPON USSR FOR ALL THREE, HAD HOPED KEEP HIS AIR FORCE US- SUPPLIED. RUSSIANS TERMS FOR HELICOPTERS WERE EXTREMELY ADVANTAGEOUS. BENHIMA NOTED NO REFERENCE TO AVAILABILITY SURPLUS PATROL BOATS IN REFTTEL. I SAID I WOULD INQUIRE. PLEASE ADVISE.

5. BENHIMA SAID THAT IN MENTIONING KING'S NEW DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICIES, HE HAD NOT SOUGHT US " GREEN LIGHT" BUT MERELY TO SHOW THAT MOROCCO WAS EMBARKING ON A COURSE WHICH SHOULD BE OF INTEREST TO US, SINCE IT WOULD STRENGTHEN STABILITY OF MOROCCO, A DEVELOPMENT IN WHICH HE KNEW US WAS INTERESTED. " YOU CANNOT HAVE STABILITY WITHOUT AUTHORITY."

6. WHEN BENHIMA AGAIN REFERRED TO HIS HOPE THAT MORE DETAILED US RESPONSE WOULD INDICATE READINESS UNDERTAKE LARGER PROGRAMS IN MOROCCO, I REFFERRED TO US INTEREST IN MOROCCO AND TO GREAT EFFORT WHICH USG HAD MADE AND WOULD MAKE TO MAINTAIN CURRENT SIZEABLE ASSISTANCE EFFORT IN THIS COUNTRY IN FACE OF DIMINISHING RESOURCES AND HARDENING CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDE TOWARD FOREIGN ASSISTANCE IN GENRAL. MINISTER'S RESPONSE WAS TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR THIS ATTITUDE ON PART OF STATE DEPARTMENT ; HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE WAS SURE THAT PRESIDENT, IF HE DESIRED, COULD FIND ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR MOROCCO BEYOND THOSE ALLOCATED AS RESULT DIVISION BY EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF TOTAL AMOUNT OF FOREIGN AID FUNDS VOTED BY CONGRESS. FOR EXAMPLE, PRESIDENT COULD EXTRACT " A FEW MILLIONS" FROM HUGE AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE ALLOCATED TO ISRAEL. MOREOVER, COULD GOOD CASE NOT BE MADE THAT MOROCCO, A FRIENDLY ARAB STATE NOT IN ACTUAL CONFLICT WITH ISRAEL, SHOULD DESERVE SOME OF THE KIND OF US ASSISTANCE BEING SUPPLIED TO JORDAN, AN ARAB STATE IN ARMED CONFRONTATION WITH  
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ISRAEL? HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT UPON FURTHER REFLECTION USG WOULD FIND IT WAS ABLE TO STRENGTHEN ITS ASSISTANCE TO MOROCCO WITHIN FRAMEWORK WHICH HE HAD DESCRIBED DURING

HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON.  
ROCKWELL

SECRET

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

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